

## House Republican Press Release

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### **Representatives Chapin, Carson, Senator Roraback: Contract Expected to be Awarded for Next Phase of Route 7 Project**



State Representatives Clark Chapin, R-New Milford, and Mary Ann Carson, R-New Fairfield, and State Senator Andrew Roraback, R-Goshen today announced the State Department of Transportation DOT is expected to formally award a contract on Friday, February 25 for Phase II of the Route 7 expansion project. The start of construction on this phase, which will widen Route 7 from Lanesville Road in New Milford to the Brookfield town line, is again expected to begin this spring.

Construction on Phase I of the project began in 2002 and is scheduled to be completed later this year. In January 2003, the DOT changed its Transportation Improvement Plan to push the start of Phase II to beyond Fiscal Year 2005. However, area state legislators worked with DOT officials to reinstate the original timeline.

“With the award of this contract, New Milford will reach another milestone in its history,” said Rep. Chapin. “The expected completion of Phase 1 this year along with the groundbreaking of Phase 2, means residents will begin to see ‘the light at the end of the Route 7 tunnel.’ Decades of talk will be replaced by physical improvements and a reduction in traffic congestion.”

“This is certainly good news for the New Milford community,” said Rep. Carson. “It has been a long-awaited project and the award of this contract is another positive step forward.”

“I am delighted to share with people from greater New Milford the good news that Phase 2 will soon be underway. The patience which has been shown by everyone who uses Route 7 will be rewarded in the near future with a widened highway which will ease congestion and allow for the easier flow of traffic,” said Sen. Roraback.